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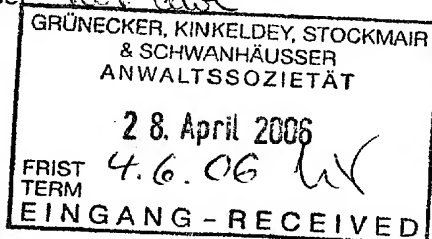
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| Reference<br>EP37817TE900aha                  | Application No./Patent No.<br>05112925.2 - 2211 |
| Applicant/Proprietor<br>MICROSOFT CORPORATION |   |

### Communication

The partial European search report (R. 46 EPC) is enclosed.

The applicant is informed that if the European search report is also to cover inventions other than the invention(s) already searched and for which a meaningful search can be carried out, a further search fee must be paid for each of these inventions, in the present instance

### 1 search fees

within **one month** after notification of this communication.

If applicable, a European search opinion covering those invention(s) for which a search fee has been paid will then be sent together with the European search report.

Copies of documents cited in the European search report are attached.

☒ 1 additional set(s) of copies of such documents is (are) enclosed as well.

The following have been approved:

☒ Abstract

☐ Title

☐ the Abstract was modified and the definitive text is attached to this communication.

The following figure will be published together with the abstract: 1

### Automatic debiting procedure

Unless the EPO receives prior instructions to the contrary, the search fee(s) will be debited on the last day of the period for payment. For further details see the Arrangements for the automatic debiting procedure, Supplement 2 to OJ EPO 01/2005.



## DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category | Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages  | Relevant to claim | CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC) |
|----------|--|-------------------|---|
| ① X ✓    | US 5 613 123 A (TSANG ET AL)<br>18 March 1997 (1997-03-18)<br>* abstract *<br>* column 4, line 30 - column 6, line 42 *<br>* figures 2,5 *         | 1-12              | INV.<br>G06F9/445<br>H04L29/06          |
| ② X ✓    | EP 1 233 337 A (HEWLETT-PACKARD COMPANY)<br>21 August 2002 (2002-08-21)<br>* abstract *<br>* paragraph [0024] - paragraph [0031] *<br>* figure 3 * | 13-17             |   |
| ③ A ✓    | US 5 339 432 A (CRICK ET AL)<br>16 August 1994 (1994-08-16)<br>* the whole document *  | 1-12              |   |
|          |  |                   | TECHNICAL FIELDS<br>SEARCHED (IPC)      |
|          |  |                   | G06F<br>H04L                            |

### LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

see sheet B

The present partial European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims.

|   |                                  |            |
|---|----------------------------------|------------|
| Place of search   | Date of completion of the search | Examiner   |
| Munich  | 11 April 2006                    | Horn, M.P. |
| <p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone</p> <p>Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category</p> <p>A : technological background</p> <p>O : non-written disclosure</p> <p>P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention</p> <p>E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date</p> <p>D : document cited in the application</p> <p>L : document cited for other reasons</p> <p>&amp; : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p> |                                  |            |



The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. claims: 1-17

Association manager which provides an association request to a particular handler based on information in the request and information stored in a registry.

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2. claims: 18-20

A data packet transmitted between two or more computer components.

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The present application does not fulfill the requirement of unity in the sense of Article 82 EPC.

There are no common technical features between claim 1 and claim 18. The common technical feature between claims 13 and 18 is a "response". This technical feature is generally known in the field of computer sciences.

The special technical features of the present application are neither the same nor corresponding:

Group 1 (claims 1-17) relates to the dispatching of a request to a particular handler. The objective technical problem is the selection of the appropriate handler for a request. The solution is a manager which uses information in the request and in a registry in order to identify the correct handler.

Group 2 (claims 18-20) relates to inter-component communication. The objective technical problem is to carry out inter-component communication. The solution is to provide a response which is transmitted via a medium.

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 05 11 2925

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on  
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

11-04-2006

| Patent document<br>cited in search report |   | Publication<br>date | Patent family<br>member(s)          | Publication<br>date      |
|---|---|---------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| US 5613123                                | A | 18-03-1997          | NONE                                |                          |
| EP 1233337                                | A | 21-08-2002          | JP 2002312298 A<br>US 2002124046 A1 | 25-10-2002<br>05-09-2002 |
| US 5339432                                | A | 16-08-1994          | NONE                                |                          |